

PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS
IADN: ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE AMERICAS
(LAG-G-00-00-00036-00)

Quarterly Report
July 1 – September 30, 2004

I. Background.....p. 4

II. Quarterly Report Highlights.....p. 5

- Civil Society Task Force Established in Honduras
- “Transparency in the Americas” Sub-Grantee Projects Launched
- “Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process” Virtual Course Launched
- IADN Awarded Funding from the Inter-American Foundation
- IADN Website Re-Designed

III. Main Activities for the Quarter.....p. 7

Component I – Constructively Engage Civil Society in the Preparation,
Accompaniment and Monitoring of the Summit of the Americas Process

and Resulting Action Plan.....p. 7

Analysis of Activities as related to the Quarter’s Objective

- A. Engaging LAC CSOs in the Special Summit of the Americas in 2004
and the 2005 Summit
 - 1.1 Hemispheric Virtual Deliberations: “Civil Society Collaborating to Build the
Hemispheric Agenda”
 - 1.2 OAS/IADN Forum in Buenos Aires
- B. Building CSO Awareness and Understanding of the Summit Process
and Action Plans
 - 2.1 Civil Society Task Force
 - 2.2 IADN Virtual Information Sharing on the Summit Process
- C. Mobilizing Civil Society Participation in Monitoring the 2001 Quebec
Summit Action Plan Implementation
 - 3.1 Civil Society Follow-Up Strategy for the Québec City Plan of Action

List of Annex Documents

Component II – Mobilize and Sustain Civil Society Participation in Informing,
Accompanying and Monitoring Anti-Corruption and Transparency Efforts.....p. 12

Analysis of Activities as related to the Quarter’s Objectives

- A. Collaboration formalized between the IADN, regional and hemispheric
associations, and municipal and local government official organizations

- B. Transparency in the Americas Grant Program: Financial and Technical Resources Provided to Network Members to Implement Transparency/Anti-Corruption Initiatives
 - 2.1 Sub-Grantee Projects Launched
 - 2.2 Training and Technical Assistance
 - 2.2.1 Online Course “Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process” Launched
 - 2.2.2 Technical Assistance through Fundación Poder Ciudadano
 - 2.2.3 Planning for October Sub-Grantee Conference
 - 2.3 “Transparency in the Americas” Grants Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan Designed
 - 2.4 Updates on Sub-Grantee Projects
 - 2.4.1 “Monitoreo Ciudadano del Presupuesto” (CIPPEC-Argentina)
 - 2.4.2 “Ciudadanía Social” (Fundación El Otro-Argentina)
 - 2.4.3 “Sumando Transparencia en la Elaboración de Presupuesto Municipal” (SUMANDO-Paraguay)
 - 2.4.4 “Acción Ciudadana” (Fundación Ricardo Boettner-Paraguay)
 - 2.4.5 “Vigilancia de Presupuestos Públicos de Municipalidades Rurales Andinas” (Asociación SER-Peru)
 - 2.4.6 “Acción Institucional y Control Social Juvenil a la Inversión de Recursos Públicos en Salud” (Corporación Acción Ciudadano-Colombia)
 - 2.4.7 “Fortalecimiento de las Practicas Democráticas de los Gobiernos Locales” (CEPLAES-Ecuador)
 - 2.4.8 “Presupuestos Abiertos y Participativos” (Acción Ciudadana-Guatemala)
 - 2.4.9 “Presupuesto Participativo” (Grupo FUNDEMOS-Nicaragua)
 - 2.4.10 “Fortaleciendo la Democracia y la Transparencia Municipal” (Fundación Solidaridad-Dominican Republic)
 - 2.4.11 “Participación Ciudadana y Transparencia en el Presupuesto Municipal” (Probidad-El Salvador)

List of Annex Documents

Component III – Consolidate and Strengthen the Network for Sustainability.....p. 26

Analysis of Activities as related to the Quarter’s Objectives

- A. Building the IADN Coordinating Group’s Capacity to Govern the Network and Formalizing the IADN’s Mission and Operational Procedures
 - 1.1 New IADN Statutes
 - 1.2 Argentine Legal Presence
 - 1.3 IADN Procedures Manual
- B. Developing a Long-Term Sustainability Plan and Increasing IADN Membership
 - 2.1 Project Award Received from the Inter-American Foundation
 - 2.2 Proposal Development and Other Opportunities
 - 2.3 Membership Fee Process Underway
 - 2.4 Outreach to IADN Members
 - 2.5 New Member Drive

- E. Expanding IADN Outreach and Disseminating News on Civil Society and IADN Activities
 - 3.1 INFORID
 - 3.2 Monthly Bulletins
- F. Providing a Comprehensive Menu of Online Services and Increasing the Capacity of IADN Members to Collaborate
 - 4.1 New Multi-Lingual Website with Member Intranet Launched
 - 4.2 Virtual Platform Expansion
 - 4.3 Implementation of Virtual Courses
 - 4.4 IADN Toolkit Development
- G. Highlighting the Importance of Citizen Participation
 - 5.1 Citizen Participation Index National Surveys Completed

List of Annex Documents

I. BACKGROUND

The 1995 Summit of the Americas Plan of Action called for preserving and strengthening the community of democracies in the Americas by stressing economic prosperity, democracy and human rights in the hemisphere. At the same time, the Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN or Network) began to take shape as a result of the joint efforts of five Latin American civil society organizations, working with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Partners of the Americas (Partners), to use citizen participation to strengthen and support the process of democratization which was sweeping across Latin America.

In 1995, USAID/LAC entered into a five-year cooperative agreement with Partners to build the Inter-American Democracy Network. The grant enabled this core group of founding members to transfer their skills in participatory democratic practices to dozens of other CSOs in the region. In September, 2000, building on the success in the first five years and based on a participatory evaluation of the IADN, USAID extended its support of the IADN through a new Cooperative Agreement with Partners. This three-year program was designed to increase and sustain collaborative action among leading CSOs in the region. The program focused on further strengthening the IADN, to ensure that: (1) its efforts to support self-help collaboration between members could be sustained; and (2) the network becomes a viable voice for civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean. To this end, Partners has worked with the Network to design and implement its governance structure—including a democratically-elected Coordinating Group and an Executive Secretariat. Moreover, Partners has guided the development of an Internet-based system for communications and outreach, the participatory development of network governing processes, and workshops, training and assistance in such areas as fund raising and alliance building. The Network has grown into the largest organization of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, counting among its members some 350 CSOs from 24 countries.

In 2003, USAID extended and expanded its existing Cooperative Agreement (LAG-G-00-00-00036-00) with Partners. This new, two-year agreement entitled “Inter-American Democracy Network: Engaging Civil Society in the Americas,” will:

- Increase the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean civil society organizations to participate in, inform the agenda of and monitor the implementation of mandates resulting from the Summit of the Americas Process;
- Increase the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean civil society organizations to mobilize civil society participation in and monitoring and oversight of local and national government;
- Expand and strengthen the network of Latin American and Caribbean civil society organizations that encourage and assist civic activism at the local, national and regional levels.

II. QUARTERLY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

During the third quarter of 2004, Partners and the IADN engaged in a myriad of key initiatives designed to strengthen the Network, mobilize citizen participation in hemispheric processes, and increase CSO capacity to implement transparency and anti-corruption activities. Among the quarter's many achievements, the "Transparency in the Americas" subgrant program was launched along with a corresponding virtual course, a Civil Society Task Force was established in Honduras, the IADN received direct funding from the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) and the OAS, and the IADN's website was re-designed. These activities are summarized below:

"Transparency in the Americas" Sub-Grantee Projects Launched

During this quarter, Partners provided the first distribution of funds to the CSO finalists of the "Transparency in the Americas" grants program. Eleven projects, with a combined budget of \$730,000, were launched during July and August in the countries of Paraguay, Colombia, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Peru. The projects are collaborative efforts of 43 Latin American civil society organizations who are members of the IADN. Projects aim to reinforce transparent budgetary rules and regulations, promote public access to budgetary information, and increase citizen participation in monitoring and evaluating local budget plans and their implementation. As of September 2004, grantee organizations have reported significant progress in encouraging, assisting and mobilizing constructive civic activism in local budget processes and in political will to encourage and responded to citizens' needs.

"Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process" Virtual Course Launched

As part of the technical assistance provided to grantee organizations, the IADN Secretariat, with assistance from an online adult education specialist and Poder Ciudadana, launched an online course called "Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process". The course is hosted within Poder Ciudadano's Centro Virtual de Capacitación para la Acción Colectiva (www.accioncolectiva.net). During the quarter, all grantee organizations were encouraged to participate in the course and provide feedback. Currently, nine representatives of the grant projects are participating in weekly online trainings. The online course was developed with the goal of providing CSOs with new tools for social control, participation and impact on local government transparency and public policies. After completing the course, participants should be able to identify the components of a participatory budget and determine how it can be used to improve transparency. Further, participating organizations will acquire and develop the tools and strategies required to outline an advocacy program that leads to a participatory community budget. Once the course receives feedback from the sub grantees it will be made available for all IADN members.

Civil Society Task Force Established in Honduras

Partners and the Esquel Group Foundation (EGF) have established a Civil Society Task Force in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, that replicates the Washington meeting model which brings together representatives from NGOs, academia, international organizations, labor unions, and government

agencies. The Honduras *espacio*--the precise Spanish name will be decided by the participants--will aim to foster dialogue and allow for the exchange of experiences and ideas on issues of interest to Honduran civil society. Further, it will serve as a conduit for input into the Summit of the Americas process. As noted during the visit of EGF representatives, Honduras has reached a moment in history where civil society is increasingly perceived to play a decisive role in the country's consolidation of democracy and improved governance. Further, there is an emerging civil society and an increasing awareness of the need for a culture of citizenship.

After meeting with over 20 organizations, Mr. Mario Martin was identified as a credible convener. He currently serves as the founder and President of a private university located in Honduras, the Centro de Diseño, Arquitectura y Construcción, and has previously worked at the OAS and at the national housing bank. Mr. Martin has agreed to hold open monthly meetings and to distribute the meeting minutes afterwards. The first meeting is scheduled to take place in October.

Honduras will now join the Dominican Republic as spaces in which the Task Force has been replicated outside the United States. Similar civil society meeting spaces are being explored in Guatemala, Ecuador, and Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

IADN Website Re-Designed

In August, the IADN launched a new trilingual website in which users can switch between website interfaces offered in Spanish, English and Portuguese. Each interface offers language specific INFORID news pieces and the majority of the remaining content is also translated into all three languages. Further, Network members can now login to access an Intranet that is exclusive to members and features such items as virtual forums, technical assistance in website design, a comprehensive membership list, and a search function that allows users to search for other members, INFORID news items, and general website content. The new website has averaged nearly 80 "hits" per day.

In addition, members can now access the IADN's virtual classroom. The classroom is currently being updated to allow for increased interaction and more dynamic exchanges among the students and teacher. In the meantime, the classroom is being used by participants from the "Transparency in the Americas" program.

III. MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR THE QUARTER

Component I – Constructively Engage Civil Society in the Preparation, Accompaniment and Monitoring of the Summit of the Americas Process and Resulting Action Plan

During the quarter, Partners engaged in activities that advanced the objectives identified in the first component of the 2003-2004 USAID workplan. After working with a consortium of CSOs from throughout the hemisphere to plan and facilitate the civil society forum at the Special Summit of the Americas, Partners has emerged from this group as a leader in designing a new, more inclusive and focused strategy for continuing CSO participation in the Summit of the Americas process. Through the Buenos Aires-based IADN Secretariat, key contacts have been made with Argentine officials responsible for the organization of the 2005 Summit and other Summit-related activities. The involvement of civil society in Summit issues and follow-up has been furthered by a newly designed format for the Civil Society Task Force and advancements in the Civil Society Follow-Up Strategy.

Analysis of Activities as related to the Quarter's Objectives

I. Engaging LAC CSOs in the Special Summit of the Americas in 2004 and the 2005 Summit

1.1 Hemispheric Virtual Deliberations: "Civil Society Collaborating to Build the Hemispheric Agenda"

Working with its consortium of collaborating organizations, Corporación Participa, FOCAL, and the IADN, Partners continues to lay the groundwork for implementation of its deliberative civil society participation strategy, "Civil Society Collaborating to Build the Hemispheric Agenda." As noted in previous reports, this initiative builds on years of work by multiple organizations and complements the "Civil Society Follow-Up to the Quebec Plan of Action" project – a national level strategy that focuses on monitoring specific indicators for implementation of five critical Quebec City mandates. Partners' strategy will strengthen civil society's capacity to: 1) develop more comprehensive and focused strategies for mandate development and subsequent implementation; and 2) take better advantage of increasingly open spaces for participation. Civil society participation will be expanded and enhanced through widespread information dissemination and engagement in theme-based virtual deliberative forums on human rights, transparency/anti-corruption, sustainable development/environment, peace building, citizen participation, education, democracy and political parties, and labor. Together, both of these initiatives strengthen civil society participation in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of Summit mandates and encourage national level policy development in line with those mandates.

In the last quarter, Partners has solidified the majority of its thematic leaders and has refined its strategy and corresponding timeline. Deliberations will be led by CSO expert networks including Transparency International (TI), the Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES), the Center for Civic Education, Corporación Participa, the IADN, and a CSO consortium led by Tulane University's Institute for Environmental Law and Policy. Discussions continue with the Coalición Internacional de Organizaciones de Derechos Humanos (CEJIL) and

with various labor organizations. For example, Partners recently met with the AFL-CIO to discuss organizations that might be interested in participating in the deliberation on labor.

The theme-specific virtual deliberations will be held in the spring of 2005. Moderators and collaborating organizations will meet in February 2005 for an intensive training session focusing on the deliberative methodology, steps for moderating a successful deliberation, technical training on the virtual platform, civil society participation in the Summit process, and the strategy's desired goals, objectives and results. Information dissemination and awareness building will begin prior to the training.

In the next quarter, Partners will finalize the thematic leaders, build awareness about this initiative, develop background documents, and begin developing the strategy's virtual space. Moreover, Partners and the IADN will continue discussions with the OAS, government of Argentina and others to plan for on-the-ground civil society forums and ensure that the virtual deliberations are fed into on-the-ground dialogue and deliberation. Collaborating actors have agreed to host the strategy and its virtual deliberations on the IADN's newly re-designed website. Partners will work with the IADN in building on its virtual forum technology to create a more dynamic space that allows for the posting of outside documents, message archives and includes a listserv component. In combining a listserv with the more dynamic virtual forum, participants with slow and limited Internet access can more easily participate in the deliberations via e-mail.

This strategy will be strengthened by the joint Partners - Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) publication on civil society participation in the Summit process. The publication is currently a work in progress and will be finalized in the near term.

The English and Spanish executive summaries of the strategy are included in the annex.

1.2 OAS/IADN Forum in Buenos Aires

During the past quarter, the IADN was again recognized for its positioning as a leading civil society voice and a critical actor in the Summit process. The OAS awarded the Secretariat \$10,000 to help organize an October seminar in Buenos Aires hosted by the Argentine Ministry of Exterior Relations and the OAS. The seminar, "Democracy and the Summit Process: Challenges for the Americas", will convene government authorities, political institutions, civil society, academics, and representatives from other MERCOSUR countries to discuss Summit issues. Panels will focus on items such as the Inter-American Democratic Charter, Democracy and the Summits of the Americas, and the 2005 Summit theme, creating jobs to confront poverty and strengthen democratic governance.

Internal OAS changes have resulted in the postponement of the seminar for a to-be-announced date in November.

II. Building CSO Awareness and Understanding of the Summit Process and Action Plans

2.1 Civil Society Task Force

As mentioned in the Highlights section, an agreement was reached to establish a meeting space in Honduras similar to the Washington Civil Society Task Force model. The first meeting is scheduled for October 2004. Partners and the Esquel Group Foundation (EGF) continue exploring the establishment of a Task Force in Guatemala, Ecuador and Santa Cruz, Bolivia, all locations ripe for such a meeting format.

In addition, the Washington Task Force convened two meetings during the past quarter bringing together representatives of NGOs, academia, international organizations, labor unions, and US and other government agencies. Partners and Esquel have partnered with the United States National Coordinator for the Summit of the Americas at the US Department of State, the Inter-American Dialogue and the Council on the Americas to use the Task Force to host bi-monthly “Summit in Focus “ civil society Summit consultations.

The July “Summit in Focus” meeting entitled “Strengthening Property Rights: Laying the Groundwork for Broad-Based Economic Growth” featured presentations by Ambassador John Maisto, the U.S. National Summit Coordinator, Octavio Sanchez, advisor to the President of Honduras on governance issues, and Kevin Barthel, a Latin American property rights systems specialist. The meeting was moderated by Jolyne Sanjak of USAID. In September, the “Summit in Focus convened Connie Gahagan of the Charles Kettering Foundation, Diane LaVoy of the Academy for Educational Development, Jeffrey Puryear of the Inter-American Dialogue, and Rafael Nevarez of the U.S. Department of Education for a discussion on “Accountability in Education: Strengthening Citizen Voice.”

The participant lists and meeting minutes are included in the annex. In addition, the Esquel Group Foundation’s quarterly activity summary can be found in the annex.

2.2 IADN Virtual Information Sharing on the Summit Process

In the past quarter, the IADN continued to expand civil society knowledge of the Summit process by sharing information related to the 2005 Summit. The IADN’s civil society news service, INFORID, has published and distributed at least five Summit-related articles reaching civil society and mass media from throughout the hemisphere. Additionally, Gustavo Gamallo, the IADN Executive Secretary, published a piece following the General Assembly about the recently chosen 2005 Summit theme. Opinion pieces outlining opportunities for CSO engagement and the connect between NGOs, the Summit, and globalization have also been posted on the IADN’s website. In the coming months, the IADN website will augment its Summit-related resources with the posting of documents and other materials as specified in the strategy for “Civil Society Collaborating to Build the Hemispheric Agenda.”

Sample INFORID articles, including “Obstáculos para las OSCs en Centroamérica” and “Débil legislación para la participación en Costa Rica”, can be found in the annex to this section.

III. Mobilizing Civil Society Participation in Monitoring the 2001 Quebec Summit Action Plan Implementation

3.1 Civil Society Follow-Up Strategy for the Québec City Plan of Action

Partners continued to support Corporación Participa's efforts to work with organizations from 20 countries in the region to educate citizens and CSOs about the Summit of the Americas and the commitments made by governments to strengthen democracy. The Follow-Up Strategy has collected information using quantitative and qualitative indicators that measure the degree of implementation of the access to information, freedom of expression, strengthening of civil society, access to justice and independence of the judiciary, and decentralization and strengthening of local governments mandates from the Quebec City Plan of Action. As part of Partners' sub-contract with Participa, this project supports national level implementation in Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador, and recently, Partners approved extending support to the Dominican Republic. In the last quarter, Partners of the Americas-Bolivia has replaced CEEILA as the national coordinator for Bolivia. A new Bolivian national coordinator will strengthen the project as Partners-Bolivia has an extensive communication network with other Bolivian CSOs and is very well informed about the project's goals, objectives and activities.

Working with the national coordinators, Participa has released the majority of national reports, which are available at: www.sociedadcivil.org. Partners/USAID supported national reports include the following recommendations:

- Peru: Decentralization – Promote and strengthen the participation of local and regional actors in order to bring about compliance with the laws.
- Colombia: Decentralization – Promote technical training in local government functions and information exchange on administrative practices, local administrative functions, and compliance with municipal associations.
- Bolivia: Justice – Institutionalize mechanisms for transparency and citizen participation in the selection of justices, and push forth public policies that guarantee citizen access to the judicial system.
- Ecuador: Access to Information – Develop a process that ensures implementation of the recently passed access to information law through training programs and execution of the law itself. Justice – Evaluate the work of the Judicial Counsel and promote transparency in the selection of new judges.
- Dominican Republic: Decentralization – Enforce compliance with the decentralization law in 2005 and a ten percent budget transfer from the national coffer to local governments.

Currently, Participa is finalizing the five regional reports, which provide a synthesis of the national reports. A final publication providing a hemispheric overview of the mandate implementation status throughout the region, along with civil society's proposals and recommendations for government consideration in the next Summit, will be released in the late fall.

Nearing completion of the first stage of this project, Partners, Participa and the other 20 National Coordinators met in San José, Costa Rica, to discuss objectives and activities for the second stage of the project. This stage will include awareness building and advocacy on behalf of the national level proposals.

The Civil Society Follow-Up Strategy for the Québec City Plan of Action quarterly report and the Costa Rica workshop agenda and summary can be found in the annex.

Annex

1. English and Spanish Executive Summaries for “Civil Society Collaborating to Build the Hemispheric Agenda”
2. Civil Society Task Force Participant Lists and Meeting Minutes
3. Esquel Group Foundation’s Quarterly Report
4. Sample INFORID articles: “Obstáculos para las OSCs en Centroamérica” and “Débil legislación para la participación en Costa Rica”
5. Civil Society Follow-Up Strategy for the Québec City Plan of Action Quarterly Report
6. Costa Rica Workshop Agenda and Summary

Component II - Mobilize and Sustain Civil Society Participation in Informing, Accompanying and Monitoring Anti-Corruption and Transparency Efforts

During the reporting period, Partners continued to work to increase the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean civil society organizations by encouraging, assisting and mobilizing civic activism in the monitoring and oversight of local and national governments. Activities have focused on providing following-up to the agreements signed between Partners and other regional associations, launching 11 projects under the “Transparency in the Americas” Grants Program, and providing training and technical support to grantee organizations.

Analysis of Activities as related to the Quarter’s Objectives

I. Collaboration formalized between the IADN, regional and hemispheric associations, and municipal and local government officials and organizations

Partners continued to cultivate formal collaborations made with Transparency International-LAC and follow-up on meetings and discussions held with USAID Paraguay and the Centro de Información y Recursos para el Desarrollo (CIRD). Moreover, Partners hosted a meeting with the Caribbean –Central American Action (CCAA) organization to explore common interests and possible collaborations in anti-corruption and transparency efforts.

Building upon the agreement signed with Transparency-International LAC, Partners worked with TI-LAC to develop a joint proposal for a region-wide anti-corruption initiative to forward civil society participation in monitoring and advocating for the application of transparency and anti-corruption commitments made by Latin American governments. To achieve this goal, Partners and TI-LAC propose an intervention consisting of three inter-related components. First, a comprehensive regional analysis will be conducted looking at the anti-corruption and transparency legal and regulatory frameworks and the state of relevant institutions (civil society organizations and the media). This will serve as a base upon which civil society organizations and governments can develop strategies to reduce corruption and foment good, responsive governance. Second, a regional conference will be convened where the findings from the analysis will be discussed and then incorporated into national action plans developed by civil society organizations. Plans will look at mechanisms to fight corruption and provide a basis for the identification of needs and provision of technical assistance to CSOs in the field of anti-corruption. Finally, a grants program will be implemented to help CSOs act upon the national action plans developed during the regional conference. During the last quarter, Partners presented the proposal to the Inter-American Development Bank, American Express Foundation, CitiBank, and the Tinker Foundation.

Similarly, over the course of the last quarter, Partners continued to follow-up on a request by Steven A. Marma, Democracy Officer for the USAID Paraguayan missions, to sponsor a conference/training for civil society watchdog organizations in Paraguay and IADN members in the Southern Cone. Previously, Partners was planning conference details with the Centro de Información y Recursos para el Desarrollo (CIRD), USAID’s sub-grantee for civil society programs in Paraguay and an offspring organization of Partners of the Americas Paraguay/Kansas partnership. However, in July CIRD relinquished their responsibilities for

planning the conference to the Red de Controlorias Ciudadanas of Paraguay. Since then, negotiations with the smaller CSO have been slow. In the upcoming quarter Partners will continue to work with the Red de Controlorias Ciudadanas to determine the possibility of sponsoring such a conference.

II. Transparency in the Americas Grant Program: Financial and Technical Resources Provided to Network Members to Implement Transparency/Anti-Corruption Initiatives

To contribute to lowering the levels of corruption in planning and implementing public sector budgets, thereby increasing government efficiency and responsiveness to citizens' needs, Partners provides financial and technical resources to IADN members through the "Transparency in the Americas" grants program. The grants program currently provides small grants to 11 lead organizations and their myriad collaborating institutions, for a total of 43 IADN member civil society organizations in nine Latin American and Caribbean countries working towards strengthening citizen participation in initiatives that improve transparency in all stages of the planning and execution of public sector budgets. Grantees work together with other IADN members, local governments and other stakeholders reinforcing transparent budgetary rules and regulations, promoting public access to budgetary information and promoting citizen participation in monitoring and evaluating local budget plans and their implementation. The grant program provides CSOs with the opportunity to improve their technical capacity, fosters an enabling environment for CSO and local government collaborations, and strengthens the IADN in order to support regional transparency and anti-corruption initiatives.

2.1 Sub-Grantee Projects Launched

As mentioned in the Highlights section, Partners provided the first funds to CSO finalists of the "Transparency in the Americas" grants program. During July, Partners signed agreements with 12 organizations that were chosen as finalists by the program's advisory committee. A month after signing the agreements and transferring funds, one of the grantee organizations, Transparencia Brasil, informed Partners that they were unable to implement their project as presented, approved and planned. Due to late notification, Partners was unable to redistribute the funds to another organization. As a result, only 11 projects, with a combined budget of \$730,000, were financed in the countries of Paraguay, Colombia, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Peru. The projects were officially launched in July and August and as of September 2004, grantee organizations have reported significant progress in encouraging, assisting and mobilizing constructive civic activism in local budget processes and in impacting political will to encourage and responded to citizens' needs.

2.2 Training and Technical Assistance

During the quarter, Partners designed a training and technical assistance plan for grantee organizations in an effort to increase their technical and organizational capacity to more effectively implement proposed grant projects and effectively mobilize civic activism. The plan responds to weaknesses identified by the advisory committee during the proposal selection process and will accommodate additional weaknesses identified by the grantee organizations during the life of the projects. To date, the plan includes training and technical assistance in the

areas of advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, public communications strategies, technical understanding of local budgets, and collaboration with government entities.

The plan consists of providing organizations with learning and capacity building opportunities through:

- Online courses;
- Workshops;
- Technical assistance site-visits;
- Online toolkits; and
- and; On-call technical assistance.

To help implement the plan, Partners will complement its own organizational and technical capacity building expertise with the hands-on participatory budgeting and advocacy experience of Poder Ciudadano. Partners will also continue to work with the IADN Secretariat to ensure their ability to support the online components. In addition, Advisory Committee members will be invited to participate in learning and capacity building opportunities according to their interest and availability.

In the upcoming quarter, Partners will continue implementing the training and technical assistance plan. Partners will monitor the development of the three online courses being developed by Poder Ciudadano, implement a monitoring, evaluation and advocacy workshop with the grantees in Antigua, Guatemala, and provide individual technical assistance with grantees through conference calls, e-mail and site-visits.

A copy of the Training and Technical Assistance Plan is located in the annex.

2.2.1 Online Course “Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process” Launched

During September, the first activity of the training and technical assistance plan, an online course, “Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process”, was launched. Nine representatives from the grantee organizations are participating and two others have been interested but unable to participate because of technical inaccessibility; they do, nonetheless, have access to course materials.

“Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process” is based on a training manual developed and donated to the IADN by Poder Ciudadano. The course’s overall goal is to provide CSOs with new tools for social control, participation and impact on local government transparency and public policies. A full-time course facilitator from Poder Ciudadano leads the course and provides follow-up to participants’ questions and concerns.

After completing the course, participants should be able to identify the components of a participatory budget and determine how it can be used to improve transparency. Further, participating organizations will acquire and develop the tools and strategies required to outline an advocacy program that leads to a participatory community budget.

The course is programmed to end in October and will be evaluated by participants to provide feedback for improvement and the development of future online courses. Once the course receives feedback from the sub grantees it will be made available for all IADN members.

Copies of the online course, “Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process”, the contents and implementation plan are located in the annex.

2.2.2 Technical Assistance through Fundación Poder Ciudadano

As mentioned above, Partners has decided to incorporate the hands-on experience of Poder Ciudadano to enrich the grant program’s training and technical assistance plan. During the quarter, Partners and Poder Ciudadano negotiated and signed a technical assistance agreement. Terms of the agreement include: 1) the development of three workshop focused on Advocacy for Participatory Budgeting, Advocacy with the Media and Advocacy with Local Governments; 2) three online courses to enrich workshop topics; 3) one online toolkit with electronic materials related to Participatory Budgeting and CSO budget monitoring; and 4) on-call technical assistance to grantee organizations as needed.

Poder Ciudadano is developing two of the three workshops for the grantee meeting in Antigua, Guatemala, in October and is facilitating the online course “Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process”. In the upcoming quarter, Poder will develop and implement the second online course focusing on Advocacy with the Media.

Copies of Poder Ciudadano’s proposal and the agreement between Partners and Poder Ciudadano are annexed for review.

2.2.3 October Sub-Grantee Conference

In addition to the online components of the training and technical assistance plan, Partners is planning a workshop to build upon project monitoring and evaluation guidance provided to grantee organizations through the grant program’s Call for Proposal guidelines. The October workshop, which will be held in Antigua, Guatemala, will provide a space for grantee organizations to exchange effective practices and receive training and technical support in the areas of project monitoring and evaluation, advocacy and media. Partners has extended invitations to the USAID Guatemala mission, Advisory Committee members, and IADN member organizations in the region.

Partners plans to continue to focus on improving the grantee organizations’ monitoring and evaluation abilities through workshops, on-going personalized technical assistances and site-visits.

A copy of the proposed agenda and invitation are located in the annex.

2.3 “Transparency in the Americas” Grants Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan Designed

The Monitoring and Evaluation plan for the “Transparency in the Americas” Grant Program was designed to capture the effectiveness of the grant program and the collective impact of each of the 11 funded projects. To the extent possible, the M&E plan responds to four meta-questions which provide the framework of the grant program’s expected impact:

Meta-Questions

- 1: To what extent have CSOs increased their capacity to encourage, assist and mobilize civic activism?
- 2: As a result of the subgrant projects, what types of institutionalized mechanisms for transparent and participatory budgeting processes at the local level have been established and to what extent have changes in political will encouraged and responded to civic activism?
- 3: To what extent do citizens in LAC, where subgrant projects were implemented, have greater confidence in their local/municipal government officials and institutions?
- 4: To what extent has the sub-grant program expanded and strengthened the IADN?

To collect the necessary data, Partners designed four major data collection tools. The tools incorporated relevant questions posed in similar tools developed and implemented by the World Bank, TI, Latinobarametro, the United Nations and the University of Pittsburgh department dedicated to transparency and anti-corruption research in Latin America.

The first of the tools is the Activities/ Inventory Tracking Sheet. The tracking sheet is a tool used by grantee organizations for continuous data collection throughout the grant program. Each grantee organization is responsible for providing information for the tracking sheet on a quarterly basis. This information gauges the grant programs progress on fourteen major program indicators. So far, Partners has received one tracking sheet for each of the grant projects and conclusions of the data analysis were incorporated into the following section on grantee projects updates.

The second tool is the Survey of Government Officials which is given twice, at the beginning of the project, and then again at the end, to local government officials in the geographic area of grantee project implementation. The survey provides data that will help record changes in attitude or opinion among local governments during each projects lifecycle. Partners, with the help of the grantee organizations has collected 80% of all surveys and is using the information to develop the baseline analysis for indicators related to improved capacity, citizen activism and change in political environments.

The third tool is the Organizational Response Questionnaire, which will be completed by the lead and collaborating CSOs participating in the grantee project’s implementation. Organizations will fill out the questionnaire at the beginning and then again at the end of the grant program. During the last quarter 80% of the questionnaire responses were collected and preliminary results on organizational capacity, civic activism and the political environment have been recorded.

The final tool to be developed is the Citizen Survey. Partners hopes to be able to implement this tool with citizens involved in project activities to gauge any change in knowledge, attitude or willingness to become involved in civic activism. Currently, Partners is consulting with each of the grantee organizations to explore the best way to implement the survey in order to get baseline data for comparison at the end of the grants program.

Goals for the next quarter are to collect all baseline data for the grants program, analyze results and document findings. The monitoring and evaluation plan will continue to provide up-to-date information on project outcomes, successes and lessons learned. This information will be highlighted in Partners quarterly reports and presented to the USAID missions in each country and to interested Advisory Committee members.

A copy of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan along with the Tools and preliminary summaries are located in the annex.

2.4 Updates on Sub-Grantee Projects

During this quarter, the eleven grants projects have reported significant progress towards achieving “Transparency in the Americas” Grant Program’s two desired program outcomes: 1) Increased capacity of participating CSOs to encourage, assist and mobilize civic activism in the development, monitoring and oversight of local budgets; and 2) Create an external environment in the participating LAC CSOs project areas that facilitate and support civic activism in the development, monitoring and oversight of local budgets.

Increased capacity of participating CSOs to encourage, assist and mobilize civic activism in the development, monitoring and oversight of local budgets

During the months of August and September the projects implemented a total of 49 public information sessions and 65 training sessions to provide citizens with the necessary information to encourage them to become involved in advocacy efforts to improve budgetary transparency. Of the over 1,657 citizens and 32 CSOs present in these events more than 75% of the citizens and 99% of the CSOs became actively involved in presenting budgetary proposals to public officials, monitoring the budget, or consulting directly with government officials on budgetary matters. Besides the total numbers of participants in the projects’ training sessions, the percentage of participating citizens from groups traditionally excluded is noteworthy, with a registered 60% women and 83% youth.

In addition to information sessions and trainings, the outreach of information was extended through 24 independent press coverage items including 11 newspaper articles, 10 radio programs, and three TV interviews reaching more than 45,000 citizens on issues of civic activism in the budgetary process. Moreover, approximately 4,000 brochures, posters, and informational documents have been distributed to the general public.

Similarly, grantee organizations have built their technical capacity during project implementation through the collaborations with other CSOs in the region. Since the beginning of the projects,

collaborations have increased by 100% with the inclusion of 43 new CSO organizations in project activities.

Create an external environment in the participating LAC CSOs project areas that facilitate and support civic activism in the development, monitoring and oversight of local budgets.

Besides increasing CSO capacity, projects have already had an impact on political will and mechanisms to facilitate and support civic activism in local budgets. During the quarter, the projects created new and stronger collaborations between CSOs and government entities and institutions. Over 10 formal agreements and action plans were signed between CSOs and local government entities to increase civic activism and transparency in budgetary allocation and implementation. These agreements and action plans outlined promises made by local governments to participate in the project activities, dedicated financial and human resources to achieving project objectives, and responded to citizens' needs and demands to improved budgetary transparency.

In addition to expressions of political will, projects also saw the first signs of institutionalized change in government policy in response to civic activism. Over 162 local and national government officials participated in public events and trainings while 21 new government institutions joined project efforts. Six municipalities, five in the Dominican Republic and one in Nicaragua, have reworked policies to reflect a political preference for participatory budgeting.

Below are brief updates of the individual progress of each project in the "Transparency in the Americas" grant program. In the upcoming quarter Partners will continue monitoring the grant projects and record successes and lessons learned. Information will be provided to the USAID missions in each country and to interested Advisory Committee members. Partners will also post updates on its webpage as well as that of the IADN.

2.4.1 "Monitoreo Ciudadano del Presupuesto" (CIPPEC-Argentina)

Coordinating partners for this project include: FAVIM Acción Ciudadana; Participación Ciudadana; FIECE; Fun.dar; La Usina; Fundación Grupo Sophia; Foro Social para la Transparencia; and Fundación del Tucumán.

Recognizing that the distribution of public resources directly correlates to social well-being, civil society should play a more participatory role in budgetary processes in order to achieve more inclusive and equitable results. This project seeks to promote more transparent public spending decision-making processes by providing citizens with clear and simple information related to public resource financing sources, spending choices and the execution of these budgets. In this project, CIPPEC draws from its experience in national-level budget monitoring to implement a collaborative budget watch program with local CSOs in five provinces throughout Argentina, including Tucumán, Misiones, Mendoza, Buenos Aires and Tierra del Fuego. While the entire provincial budget is being monitored, CIPPEC and its collaborating organizations are specifically focusing on education monies; the education budget generally comprises up to 30 percent of the provincial budget and its monitoring will ensure greater buy-in and possible project replication by local actors. The products of this project include:

- Greater public access to clear information about public spending through widespread dissemination of a provincial budget guide;
- Strengthened relationships between the government and civil society;
- Increased understanding of the budget process through CSO trainings and virtual awareness building;
- Development of tools that facilitate ongoing CSO monitoring and analysis of specific thematic areas in public budgets; and
- Improved collaborations between participating CSOs and replication of this pilot project.

In the first quarter of this project, CIPPEC re-affirmed its alliances with its provincial partnering organizations and meetings were held with government officials in all five provinces. A regional meeting brought together representatives from the participating organizations and collaborating IADN members to discuss experiences and define strategies to resolve any setbacks that either have been or may be encountered. Further, organizations agreed upon the general content for a budgetary advocacy manual.

CIPPEC also held meetings in each province with the participating organizations and government officials. In total, 23 consultations were held with government officials in the five provinces that led to the eventual receipt of official information on public budget development and execution; many obstacles were overcome in order to obtain this information, thus reconfirming the necessity of this project. Finally, initial informal meetings were held with journalists in Mendoza.

In the upcoming quarter, the sub-grantee will produce a provincial budget report in each province, a manual on citizen participation in the budget process, and a manual on participation in the education budget. Further, two trainings will be held in each province – one looking at participation in the overall provincial budget and one specifically focused on the education budget. The project webpage will also be available and contacts will be made with media outlets.

2.4.2 “Ciudadanía Social” (Fundación El Otro-Argentina)

Coordinating partners for this project include: Foro Social para la Transparencia; Fundación Utopía, Centro para la Promoción Humana y el Desarrollo Social; and Fundación Desarrollo y Equidad.

The Project “Ciudadanía Social” will promote governmental accountability for budgetary allocation to social programs in the provinces of Tucumán and Santiago del Estero. The project will provide government decision-makers, citizens and important stakeholders with monitoring information on social service program implementation. Information will be provided by beneficiaries, CSOs and government institutions. Fundación El Otro and other participating CSOs will then follow-up with the government and citizens on any anomalies or recommendations made for improvement and will report advances made in response to the information provided by the project.

Since August, the project has been training citizen volunteers who will be responsible for collecting external information and analyzing data provided by the participating CSOs, beneficiaries and government employees. They have also worked to establish a Contact Center in Buenos Aires that will present the results of this information to the nation and provincial governments. In addition, Fundación El Otro hosted a planning meeting with CSOs and government official in Tucumán to plan monitoring activities and distribute responsibilities. Similarly, Fundación El Otro will host a meeting in Santiago del Estero in the next quarter and will monitor the established work plan and collect data from citizens and CSOs in Tucuman.

2.4.3 “Sumando Transparencia en la Elaboración de Presupuesto Municipal” (SUMANDO-Paraguay)

Transparencia Paraguay is a coordinating partner for this project.

SUMANDO developed their project in conjunction with the Transparencia Paraguay in response to the low levels of citizen participation and government inefficiency in the municipalities of Caacupe, Eusebio Ayala and Villarrica. The project works to strengthen civil society and to develop their capacity to become a critical and conscience actor in promoting government accountability. Project activities involve the development of municipal Risk Map in cooperation with CSOs and local government officials to determine levels of transparency in the budgetary process and areas for intervention. Simultaneously the project provides extensive training to citizens in the development, execution and control of the local budget.

During the last quarter, SUMANDO successfully signed formal agreements and action plans with two municipal governments. Within these municipalities SUMANDO has trained leadership groups (training of trainers) which are now in the process of training citizens. SUMANDO organized their training workshops around 18 leadership groups. They hope to have six workshops for each group and start to train an additional 18 leadership groups in the next quarter. At the moment, there are 500 participants in the leadership groups most of whom are youth in their last year of secondary school or first years of their teaching degree. In the next quarter, SUMANDO plans on extending training to include university students as well as neighborhood groups and continue developing Risk Maps in conjunction with TI Paraguay and local municipal officials.

2.4.4 “Acción Ciudadana” (Fundación Ricardo Boettner-Paraguay)

Altervida FM Trinidad is a coordinating partner for this project.

Fundación Ricardo Boettner is working in Asunción and the surrounding areas of Gran Asunción. Specifically their work is being carried out in 10 districts within the capital city: Limpio, Mariano Roque Alonso, Loma Pyta, Trinidad, Bañado Norte, Bañado Sur, Bajo Charco en Villa Hayes and Benjamin Aceval. They are also working closely with FM Trinidad, an organization that specializes in civic activism through radio broadcasts. The project involves two basic foundations. The first is to create a “culture of participation” by training neighborhood leaders in participatory budgeting and giving them the tools to apply this knowledge to their communities and activities. The second is to generate new spaces and tools for dialogue between

citizens and government representatives including the creation of a system that allow citizens and government officials to denounce acts of corruption within their municipalities.

Unfortunately, Asunción suffered a great tragedy just as Fundación Ricardo Boettner began their work. A supermarket fire in the city on August 1, 2004, killed over 400 people and directly affected one of the districts in which Fundación Ricardo Boettner and FM Trinidad are working. As a result, CSOs, citizens and the local governments of Asunción have been heavily distracted and Fundación Ricardo Boettner postponed many scheduled project activities. However, Fundación Ricardo Boettner was able to successfully sign an agreement with the Public Defender and the Paraguay's General Auditor to set the ground work for the system for the Denouncement of Acts of Public Corruption. They also conducted two workshops for CSOs and government institutions to explain and receive feedback on the system. Workshops resulted in an increased number of CSOs and government institutions willing to participate in the project. For the up-coming quarter, Fundación Ricardo Boettner will hold project presentation events within the districts, set up a webpage, formalize relationships with key journalists and, together with FM Trinidad, develop and air an informative radio program.

2.4.5 “Vigilancia de Presupuestos Públicos de Municipalidades Rurales Andinas” (Asociación SER-Peru)

Vicaria de la Solidaridad de la Prelatura de Ayaviri Puno is a coordinating partner for this project.

In Peru, decentralization laws exist that require citizen participation in municipal and regional budget design and approval. However, the process of participatory budgeting in the majority of municipalities is imperfect and has not accurately incorporated the views of all citizens, especially those of the rural and indigenous populations. In addition, the current process does not include clear guidelines, mechanisms or institutionalized spaces for citizen control.

The project is focused on empowering the rural indigenous population to become proactive in the elaboration, monitoring and evaluation of the budget. Asociacion SER will do this by insisting on proper implementation of the law for participatory budgeting and through the provision of information and training critical to improving the understanding of budgetary information. So far, SER has worked to plan project activities with the governments of Carabaya, Puno and Cutervo, Cajamarca, and worked to train participatory budgeting monitors. During the next quarter they will provide workshops to rural and indigenous citizens interested in becoming involved in the participatory budgeting process and work with the general population to understand their rights to inform and monitor the budget.

2.4.6 “Acción Institucional y Control Social Juvenil a la Inversión de Recursos Públicos en Salud” (Corporación Acción Ciudadano-Colombia)

Coordinating partners for this project include: Programa Presidencial Colombia Joven; Procuraduría General de la Nación; Gobernación del Tolima; Gobernación de Boyacá; Alcaldía Municipal; Secretaria de Salud Municipal; Secretaria de Apoyo a la Gestión--Asuntos de la Juventud; Personería Municipal de Ibagué; Cámara Júnior de Colombia--Capítulo Pijao

de Oro; Fundación Vive; Asociación Semillas del Futuro; Fundación Pucura; Asociación Desafío; Asociación Juvenil de Ibagué; Fundación Proyecto Actuemos sin Violencia; and Arquidiócesis de Ibagué.

Corporación Acción Ciudadana and collaborating CSOs are working in 72 municipalities and neighborhoods in the departments of Boyacá and Ibagué. Their project involves monitoring the distribution and effect of municipal funds directed at health subsidies for low-income populations. Project activities include the formation of Budgetary Social Control groups led by local youths, which will then identify inconsistencies or failures in the distribution of municipal funds. Corporación Acción Ciudadana will train and direct the Budgetary Social Control Groups and work with government officials to improve the health subsidy program and strengthen civic and institutional activism.

During this quarter, Corporación Acción Ciudadana established multiple Base Teams with representatives from private and public institutions, including several health institutions. The Base Teams are responsible for leading and facilitating project activities and providing technical support. In addition, Corporación Acción Ciudadana has signed agreements with a number of municipal governments, several local institutions, and the National Presidential Program for the Fight Against Corruption. Over two hundred citizens and government officials have attended project events and are participating as Base Team members. In the next quarter Corporación Acción Ciudadana plans to work with Base Teams, Budgetary Social Control Groups, government officials and journalists to help them understand public health subsidy programs and their budgets. They will also continue forming alliances with CSOs and government institutions.

2.4.7 “Fortalecimiento de las Practicas Democráticas de los Gobiernos Locales” (CEPLAES-Ecuador)

Asociación de Mujeres Municipalistas de Manabí is a coordinating partner for this project.

CEPLAES identified the need to strengthen the capacity of female local authorities in the province of Manabí to negotiate, formulate and execute local budgets. The project aims to improve transparency in the local budget process, especially in budget allocation for social programs that address issues of importance to female leaders and citizens. The project also aims to promote female participation in local government and encourage equity in public politics.

During the quarter, CEPLAES has established a leadership team of 15 female council members within AMUMA and provided them with training on citizen participation and participatory budget planning. The leadership team recently finished developing a training manual and methodology to extend training to other female council members throughout the province. In the next quarter, the leadership team will begin these trainings sessions and CEPLAES will hold complementary workshops for 120 community leaders.

2.4.8 “Presupuestos Abiertos y Participativos” (Acción Ciudadana-Guatemala)

Centro de Estudios de la Cultura Maya (CECMA) is a coordinating partner for this project.

In Guatemala, decentralization laws include the mandate for citizen involvement in the preparation of local budgets, however, these requirements are not institutionalized. For example, Quetzaltenango and San Jan Comalapa, municipalities where Acción Ciudadana and CECMA are focusing their project, are required by law to have two citizen commissions, a Finance Commission and a Investigations Commission, to work with the mayor to develop the annual municipal budget. Unfortunately these commissions are non-existent. Acción Ciudadana and CECMA will work to establish and train these commissions according to the law. Then, the project will work with the existing Municipal Development Council, a council of 20 citizen representatives from the various citizen Community Development Councils, to establish and train two additional citizen commissions. The first commission will be responsible for organizing open townhall meetings to discuss budget prioritization. The other commission will be in charge of social auditing in order to monitor, analyze, and evaluate the implementation of the budget.

During the quarter Acción Ciudadana prepared the ground work for establishing the citizens' councils. In Quetzaltenango, Acción Ciudadana worked with the Mayor and the Municipal Council members to provide them with information on citizen participation in local budgets and specific project activities. After receiving a workshop facilitated by Acción Ciudadana, the Municipal Council voted to support the project. Soon after, the mayor announced the municipal governments support for citizen participation in the budget preparation on radio interviews broadcasted throughout the municipality.

In contrast to Quetzaltenango, the Municipality of Comalapa has been slow to start project activities. In the next quarter, Acción Ciudadana will focus their efforts on providing municipal representatives in Comalapa with a workshops to encourage their support and participation in project activities. In addition they will move ahead in Quetzaltenango to train the Municipal Development Council.

2.4.9 “Presupuesto Participativo” (Grupo FUNDEMOS-Nicaragua)

Asociación para la Promoción y el Desarrollo Integral Comunitario (ASPRODIC) is a coordinating partner for this project.

The methodology of Participatory Budgeting is a new concept in Nicaragua and FUNDEMOS and ASPRODIC along with the mayor of the municipality of Boaco hope to use the methodology to incorporate the local citizenry into the processes of municipal planning and decision-making through civic activism in the execution and monitoring of the local budget. Project activities are designed to create an informed civil society in Boaco by training community leaders to facilitate the disbursement of information, organize the general public, increase access to information and facilitate cooperation with the municipal government. FUNDEMOS and ASPRODIC are working closely with the mayor's office and with local authorities members of the Municipal Development Committee (CDM).

FUNDEMOS began their project by visiting and holding workshops in 29 of Boaco's rural and urban communities. Over 1,000 citizens participated in the workshops. Workshops were designed to include the municipalities' most important stakeholders from each geographic area

including a different economic sectors, the health sector, the education sector, transportation and youth. Each workshop provided the participants with important information about the budgetary process and encouraged open discussing among participants to determine their specific priorities and needs. Each group presented their proposed projects to be considered by the municipal government and included in the 2005 municipal budget.

In the upcoming quarter they will extend the reach of project information and hope to increase popular participation in their project through an intense media campaign involving television, radio and printed material

2.4.10 “Fortaleciendo la Democracia y la Transparencia Municipal” (Fundación Solidaridad-Dominican Republic)

Coordinating partners for this project include: Asociación de Agentes de Desarrollo (AAD) and Federación de Cooperativas del Cibao Central (FECOOPCEN).

Recognizing the need to strengthen democracy and transparency in municipal councils and civil society, Fundación Solidaridad works with municipal council members and civil society organizations to promote citizen monitoring and control of local budgets. Their main facet for accomplishing these goals is through the formation of a Pro-Municipal Participatory Budget (Pro-PMP) Network across nine municipalities. The proposed project initially focused on seven Dominican municipalities including Villa Gonzalez, Mao, Salcedo, Altamira, Navarrete, Dajabón and San Pedro de Macoris. During the quarter CSOs and government officials have asked that project activities be extended to include two new municipalities, Villa Altagracia and Sanitago. Ultimately, Fundación Solidaridad hopes to systematize the nine municipalities Participatory Budgeting process so that other municipalities can learn from their experiences and replicate the methodology.

Fundación Solidaridad launched their project nationally and locally, attracting interest and a willingness to become involved from a variety of CSOs and two new municipalities. In five of the nine municipalities local governments have started the participatory budgeting process including the process of organizing four municipal assemblies in Navarrete for consultation with over 200 citizens on the local budget. Next quarter Fundación Solidaridad will continue the municipal assemblies in the other eight municipalities and will start forming the Pro-PMP Network.

2.4.11 “Participación Ciudadana y Transparencia en el Presupuesto Municipal” (Probidad-El Salvador)

Asociación Iniciativa Social para la Democracia (ISD) is a coordinating partner for this project.

PROBIDAD & ISD identified the need to improve the capacity of municipal councils and community leaders in Ololcuilta, La Paz and Cojutepeque, Cuscatlán to implement a transparent local budgetary process. Project activities include the training of municipal councils and community leaders in topics of democracy and participation, transparency, citizen participation in the budget process and the evaluation of the local budget priorities and implementation. After

training, PROBIDAD and ISD will organize and train citizen monitoring groups, or Committees for Social Control, to oversee budget implementation. Experiences, methodologies and lessons learned will be recorded and systematized so that other Salvadorian municipalities can learn from the project and replicate useful methodologies.

Currently, the CSOs involved in the project in cooperation with the municipal assembly of Olocuilta have established a Local Development Council and a Technical Commission on Citizen Participation. The council has representatives from both the Municipal Council and the projects technical team while the commission is comprised of interested citizens and three council members who were selected by the Olocuilta Municipal Council. In addition, the CSOs participating in the project have worked diligently to advocate the passage of a Transparency Ordinance which was presented to the Council in July. Eighty citizens have joined forces to lobby tirelessly for the passing of the ordinance. Moreover, PROBIDAD and ISD have developed training manuals to be used in workshops for municipal councils and community leaders.

Next quarter, PROBIDAD hopes to start activities in Cojutepeque, Cuscatlán and celebrate the passing of the Transparency Ordinance in Olocuilta. Project efforts will also focus on intensive training for the newly formed councils and committees.

Annex

1. Training and Technical Assistance Plan
2. “Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process” online course content and implementation plan.
3. Poder Ciudadano’s technical assistance proposal and the agreement between Partners and Poder Ciudadano
4. Antigua, Guatemala Workshop proposed agenda and invitation
5. Grants Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan ,Tools and preliminary data analysis summaries
6. Grants projects’ photographs

Component III – Consolidate and Strengthen the Network for Sustainability

During the past quarter, Partners supported the IADN Secretariat in formalizing its mission and legal presence, expanding its visibility and membership, seeking new funding opportunities, planning ahead for the coming year, implementing new virtual membership services, and strengthening its organizational structure. The IADN Secretariat's complete quarterly report is included in the annex. The following section outlines these activities and other, related initiatives.

Analysis of Activities as related to the Quarter's Objectives:

I. Building the IADN Coordinating Group's Capacity to Govern the Network and Formalizing the IADN's Mission and Operational Procedures

1.1 New IADN Statutes

After a long, collaborative process, Partners, Coordinating Group (CG) members and the IADN Secretariat finalized an updated version of the Network's statutes. With Argentine legal assistance, these statutes were accepted by the Argentine government in the past quarter. The statutes represent a significant step forward for the IADN as they clarify discrepancies contained the old statutes and allowed for the legalization of the IADN in Argentina. The statutes were reviewed by Coordinating Group members, and all members, except for Gabriel Murillo of the University of the Andes who was unable to attend the May Coordinating Group meeting, signed the document outlining objectives, areas of focus, membership and CG rights and responsibilities, and Secretariat functions and transition, among others.

As outlined in the statutes, this document must be presented and approved by the general membership. Partners and the Secretariat will work in the coming quarter to determine the best mechanism for membership approval at the earliest possible date.

Please find the new statutes included in the annex.

1.2 Argentine Legal Presence

An arduous process culminated on September 3, 2004, with the Ministry of Justice, Security and Human Rights granting the IADN legal presence in Argentina. As a result, the IADN is now poised to move forward on a myriad of pending initiatives. For example, the Secretariat can now establish its own bank accounts, a necessary pre-condition for implementation of future fundraising activities. In addition, agreements will be moving forward with major credit card companies to devise a system for electronic payment of membership dues. Finally, and most importantly, the IADN can now directly receive funding from outside funding sources such as the Inter-American Foundation and the OAS. The achievement of legal presence is a key achievement in the IADN's path to sustainability.

Please find a copy of the legalization document in the annex.

1.3 IADN Procedures Manual

Like any organization, a handbook that summarizes all of the IADN's policies is critical to the institution's ability to function independently. Development of the IADN procedures manual will also serve to address key points that are not clear in the new version of the statutes. Partners has moved forward with this manual and has collected much of the necessary information from the Secretariat and hosting organizations needed for its development. In the next quarter, Partners will present the manual's structure at the December Coordinating Group meeting in order to receive feedback on its proposed content. Drafting of the procedures manual will continue during the upcoming quarter. The final version will be transferred between Secretariats and will significantly assist the Coordinating Group, both new and future members, in its ability to govern the Network.

II. Developing a Long Term Sustainability Plan and Increasing IADN Membership

2.1 Project Award Received from the Inter-American Foundation

As part of the efforts to build a sustainable Network, Partners and the IADN Secretariat have aggressively been identifying potential sources for direct IADN Secretariat funding. The IADN received its first direct grant, an 18-month \$193,600 grant from the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), to conduct a regional training program on deliberative democracy using materials adapted from the well-regarded Kettering Foundation. Key, well-poised member organizations will be trained in deliberation and conflict mediation, and, in turn, they will become regional training "centers" on deliberation for community organizations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. A training manual will be developed and a "train the trainers" workshop will be held bringing together eight deliberative leaders from different countries. The trainers will then work as consultants in the various deliberations. Partners will provide support in the deliberative methodology, technical assistance and program evaluation. Working with Fundación Cambio Democrático, the IADN will organize and lead at least four deliberative workshops around the hemisphere focusing on conflict resolution in high risk communities.

2.2 Proposal Development and Other Opportunities

As mentioned in the previous report, the IADN Secretariat has also submitted project proposals to the OSI Development Foundation, USAID, and the European Union (EU). The IADN Executive Secretary met with representatives of OSI who informed him that the original proposal is too costly but that they would like to receive a \$150,000 project proposal. A proposal entitled "Regional Program on Political Transparency and Financing" is being developed, which seeks to promote political transparency through civil society advocacy at the multi-lateral level. Responses have not been received from USAID or the EU.

The IADN also submitted a proposal to the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICAs) seeking to broaden the scope of Latin American CSOs with access to emerging technologies. The project would entail the training of a network of regional representatives capable of providing technical assistance to organizations.

In agreement with the OAS Unit for Promotion of Democracy, the IADN will collaborate in the organization of two sessions during the fourth meeting of the Inter-American Forum on Political Parties in Brasilia, Brazil, on November 9-11, 2004. The first session will discuss the relationship between political parties, communication outlets and civil society, and the second session will look at political parties and the business sector. Members of the IADN, including Fundación Poder Ciudadano of Argentina, IDEA of Paraguay, Participación Ciudadana of the Dominican Republic and Transparencia por Colombia will co-organize and lead the sessions with the Secretariat.

Finally, as mentioned previously, the IADN garnered \$10,000 in funding for coordination of a civil society Summit forum in Argentina later this fall.

2.3 Membership Fee

For the last nine years, IADN membership has been free of charge. While helpful in enlisting new members, the Network has recognized that it should assess an annual membership fee to support its growing portfolio of initiatives, help create a sense of belonging, and above all, provide funding necessary for the transition toward self-sustainability. Implementation of the membership fee is a delicate and carefully scripted process, which must be executed correctly in order to minimize member discontent. For that reason, the membership fee will no longer go into effect on October 31, 2004; instead, it will be implemented in January 2005. Postponement of membership fee dues will provide the Secretariat, CG members and other parties' additional time to prepare both internally and externally for the eventual fee and conduct additional outreach to current and new members regarding IADN benefits. As mentioned previously, please find the annual fee categories:

<u>Annual Organizational Budget</u>	<u>Annual Membership Fee</u>
Up to US\$ 75,000.....	US\$75
From US\$75,001 to US\$150,000.....	US\$100
From US\$150,001 to US\$250,000.....	US\$150
From US\$250,001 to US\$500,000.....	US\$200
From US\$500,001 to US\$1,000,000.....	US\$300
More than US\$1,000,001.....	US\$400

Under this plan, individuals or businesses may also join the Network. However, unlike member organizations, individual and business members will not be permitted to vote, run for elected positions, or compete for sub-grant monies. The two types of individual categories are: follows:

Friends of the IADN.....	US\$50
Young Friends of the IADN (ages 16 to 24)....	US\$20
Businesses.....	US\$400

2.4 Outreach to IADN Members

IADN members receive a plethora of communications from the Network and its Executive Secretariat including frequent INFORID articles, monthly bulletins, and other pieces of

information. Beyond virtual interaction, members have convened the participation of network members in their countries to discuss IADN achievements, priorities and needs of its members. For example, in the last quarter, Alianza Cívica of Mexico held a meeting with IADN members on September 9. The IADN Secretariat, in conjunction with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and polilat.com, brought together IADN members from across the hemisphere for multi-country press conferences on August 27, 2004, to highlight conclusions from the 2004 Latin American Democratic Development Index. Participating IADN members included: Acción Ciudadana in Guatemala; el Instituto de Derecho y Economía Ambiental in Paraguay; la Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana in Panamá; el Instituto Venezolano de Estudios Sociales; and the IADN Executive Secretary in Argentina.

2.5 New Member Drive

In the last quarter, 24 organizations joined the IADN, increasing the membership base to 382 organizations. The following table lists the new members and their country of origin:

	Organization	Country
1	Asociación Científica de Investigación, Asistencia y Rehabilitación	Argentina
2	COMPAS Programa Integral de Desarrollo de la Sociedad Civil	Argentina
3	El Reparo Comunidad Terapéutica	Argentina
4	Favim Acción Ciudadana	Argentina
5	Fundación de Investigación Económicas y Sociales	Argentina
6	Fundación del Tucumán	Argentina
7	Fundación Desarrollo y Equidad	Argentina
8	Fundación Utopía – Centro para la promoción humana y el desarrollo social	Argentina
9	FUNDAR, Democracia – Estado - Sociedad	Argentina
10	Institutos de Estudios Sociales y Políticos Pasaje	Argentina
11	Refugio Nocturno Pablo IV	Argentina
12	Juventud Latinoamericana por la Democracia	Brazil
13	Corporación para el Desarrollo Sostenible del Sur	Chile
14	Fundación de Desarrollo Local Impulsa	Chile
15	Fundación Luis Felipe Vélez	Colombia
16	Fundación Proyecto Actuemos Sin Violencia	Colombia
17	Partenaires des Amériques Haïti-New Jersey	Haiti
18	Asociación para la Promoción y el Desarrollo Integral Comunitario	Nicaragua
19	Corazones Abiertos	Paraguay
20	Asociación de Municipalidades de la Región San Martín	Peru
21	Asociación Latinoamericana y del Caribe para la Integración	Peru
22	Vicaría de Solidaridad de la Prelatura de Ayaviri	Peru
23	Asociación Agentes de Desarrollo	Dominican Republic
24	Gente de Soluciones	Venezuela

2.6 2005 IADN Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

In the last quarter, Partners began preparing for its participatory 2005 evaluation of the IADN and its cooperative agreement with USAID. This evaluation will assess the impact of the IADN in strengthening participatory democracy and civic responsibility in Latin America and the Caribbean. Achieving this will require evaluating the network in relation to how it functions both internally and externally. Internally, the evaluation will focus on how the IADN works to build members' institutional capacity, encourage national and cross-border collaborations, and create a sustainable network. A clear picture of internal results since the IADN's founding in 1995, with the majority of emphasis placed on the period following the 1999 evaluation, will provide the framework for then evaluating the IADN's external initiatives. Externally, the evaluation will assess the impact of member organizations and the IADN as a collective body. From that point, the evaluation will look at the IADN's impact in the region as related to democracy and civil society with an emphasis placed on the contributions of strategic projects to the IADN's overarching mission and objectives.

In the coming quarter, a draft evaluation plan will be finalized and will be discussed with key stakeholders, including USAID, the Coordinating Group and Secretariat.

III. Expanding IADN Outreach and Disseminating News on Civil Society and IADN Activities

3.1 INFORID

In the last quarter, INFORID – the civil society news service that produces and disseminates news from member organizations from media and civil society across the Americas – sent out 66 news items from member organizations to a 3,595 person distribution list; this represents a 352 person increase in its hemispheric dissemination. News pieces focused on transparency and anti-corruption, access to information, access to justice, political reform, human rights, education, Summit, social responsibility, and children's, adolescents' and women's rights. Nearly ten percent of IADN members from across the region took advantage of the INFORID to disseminate news originating from their organization. Further, over 30 percent of INFORID news articles were reproduced in other mediums of communication. This high percentage signifies not only that people are reading INFORID but that its coverage is much larger and broader than the listserv.

The previous quarter also marked the inauguration of INFORID in Focus, a monthly publication that highlights activities linked to one of the IADN's specific areas of focus. Each month's publication is available both via the INFORID listserv and the IADN's website. Members may suggest topics via email at: inforidenfoco@redinter.org.

The annex contains a sampling of INFORID news articles including:

- “Para erradicar el trabajo infantil, en Colombia” (September 21);
- “Índice de Desarrollo Democrático 2004” (August 27); and
- “Evalúan la gestión municipal en Paraguay” (July 7)

3.2 Monthly Bulletins

The IADN semimonthly newsletter is disseminated to 1,628 recipients including Network members, organizations interested in Network activities, and others; this represents a 332 person increase from the previous reporting period. Through this newsletter, the Secretariat is able to update all interested in the work of the IADN.

The September 1 bulletin is included in the annex.

IV. Providing a Comprehensive Menu of Online Services and Increasing the Capacity of IADN Members to Collaborate

4.1 New Multi-Lingual Website with Member Intranet Launched

In August, the IADN launched a new trilingual website in which users can switch between website interfaces offered in Spanish, English and Portuguese. Each interface offers language specific INFORID news pieces, a member only Intranet, virtual forums and other IADN resources. Adding to the list of member services, the new Intranet allows members to create webpages for their organizations through a simple process in which they can add all relevant organizational information to one of three different design templates. As part of this feature, members can also create up to three email addresses for their organization. The Intranet also features a comprehensive search engine that permits members to search for other members and for general content on the IADN website.

Additionally, members can partake in virtual forums and on-line questionnaires related to IADN areas of interest. Three forums have been initiated in the past quarter but with less than desired participation. In the coming quarter, emphasis will be placed on increased involvement in these dynamic discussion forums. Questionnaires seek to gauge the opinion of members in regard to current issues facing civil society. For example, a recent forum solicited opinions about civil society priorities in light of the February 2005 Inter-American Development Bank – Civil Society meeting in Antigua, Guatemala. The new website has averaged nearly 80 “hits” per day.

4.2 Virtual Platform Expansion

In the past quarter, the IADN website has added a virtual classroom component to its variety of services. IADN Secretariat host Fundación Poder Ciudadano formally ceded its virtual training center technology and the platform has been transferred to the IADN. Through the IADN’s website, members can now access “Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process” and other upcoming courses through Acción Collectiva. This training course provides CSOs with a new tool for social control, participation and impact on local government transparency and public policies.

Partners is also working with the IADN in updating the Acción Collectiva technology. While the platform provides many of the necessary tools for a virtual class, its technology has not been modified in the last few years. The ability to offer a high caliber virtual experience is critical to

the IADN as e-learning is one of its niche areas that will play an increasingly important role in its path to sustainability. A project to rectify deficiencies will address the following:

- Insufficient technology dating back to 2001;
- A platform that cannot be directly linked to the IADN's website;
- Inadequate resources to design new courses;
- User registration and validation;
- An inability to carry out more dynamic, interactive classroom activities; and
- Insufficient class communication options.

According to the project's timeline, the update will be completed in mid-December 2004. A copy is included in the annex.

In the meantime, as referenced earlier, participants in the "Transparency in the Americas" program are currently using the virtual classroom for the IADN's "Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process" class.

4.3 Implementation of Virtual Courses

In addition to the "Advocacy Strategies in the Participatory Process" course, the IADN is also expanding this niche service through other virtual courses of thematic interest to the membership. For example, courses are also available on political financing transparency and public institution monitoring. Partners and the IADN, in conjunction with the Escuela Virtual de Gobernabilidad, are also offering a three-month course titled "Constructing Social Capital." The course's goal is to strengthen participants' ability to analyze implement mechanisms for civil society participation in public life and policymaking. This course has recently been slightly disrupted with the dissolving of the Escuela Virtual de Gobernabilidad. Responsibility for the continuation of the course now falls with the University of Catalunya, the hosting institution for the former Escuela.

4.4 IADN Toolkit Development

During the last quarter, Partners has continued efforts to compile materials, manuals, methodologies, case studies and other documents developed by IADN members to be placed on the IADN on-line tool kit. In discussions with the Secretariat, it was decided that toolkit material will be re-organized so that it is grouped by thematic areas of interest. In the coming quarter, this virtual library will be updated and made more user friendly.

V. Highlighting the Importance of Citizen Participation

5.1 Citizen Participation Index National Surveys Completed

Building upon the success of a pilot project gauging current citizen participation and motivations for participation in Chile, Partners has sub-contracted Corporación Participa to conduct a citizen participation index in following seven countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru and the Dominican Republic. The results of this Index will be published and disseminated

in the early winter. In the last quarter, the seven national coordinating partners worked with surveying organizations to complete the on-the-ground surveys. The following polling organizations completed the national results, which were then relayed to the coordinating polling firm, ADIMARK of Chile:

- IMASEN – Peru
- Opinión Pública, Servicios y Mercado en asociación con Fundación de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales – Argentina
- Franceschini Análises de Mercado - Brazil
- Mercaeí: Inteligencia de Mercados – Mexico
- Gallup Dominicana – Dominican Republic
- Demoscopía S.A. - Costa Rica
- ADIMARK - Chile

ADIMARK is currently analyzing the data and drafting national reports, which will then be shared with collaborating organizations in late October for modifications and approval. The national reports, originally scheduled for ADIMARK completion by early October, were delayed a few weeks due to the late arrival of national data.

In the coming quarter, the Citizen Participation Index project will seek to accomplish the following:

- Distribution of national reports to each country leader;
- Selection of regional information that will be broadly shared;
- A simultaneous press conference in the seven countries to share the results of the Index;
- Local dissemination of Index findings; and
- Termination of the project.

The quarterly report for the Citizen Participation Index is included in the annex.

Annex

1. IADN Executive Secretariat's Quarterly Report
2. New IADN Statutes
3. IADN Argentine Legalization Document
4. "Para erradicar el trabajo infantil, en Colombia" (September 21)
5. "Índice de Desarrollo Democrático 2004" (August 27)
6. "Evalúan la gestión municipal en Paraguay" (July 7)
7. September 1 Semimonthly Bulletin
8. Virtual Classroom Update Project
9. Citizen Participation Index Quarterly Report